

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 19 are independent.

Claims 2-3, 5-9, and 17-23 have been withdrawn from further consideration for the reasons set forth at page 2 of the Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests consideration and allowance of these claims as being based upon allowable generic independent Claims 1 and 19. Should the Examiner have any questions in this regard, he is respectfully encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (202) 625-3507.

The undersigned would like to thank Examiner Bui for the cordial and productive telephone interview of September 16, 2008. The Examiner's helpful comments and suggestions were instrumental in preparing this response.

Claims 1, 4, and 10-16 were rejected as being unpatentable over Ding and Ning, for the reasons discussed on pages 2-4 of the Office Action. Applicant respectfully traverses all art rejections.

As discussed at the interview, a notable feature of the present invention is the use of a radiologic opacifier¹ material in the stent coating, which opacifier material

1 See the attached definition of "opacifier" from Wikipedia, which states:

An opacifier is a substance added to a material in order to make the ensuing system opaque. An example of a chemical opacifier is tin dioxide (SnO₂), which is used to opacify ceramic glazes. ...

Sometimes opacifiers are added to medical implants to make them visible under X-ray imaging. This is especially true in the case of most polymers which are often unrecognizable in the body when viewed using X-rays.

elutes over time to change the radiological visibility of the stent. Such a reduction in radiologic opacity over time allows, for example: (i) better visualization of the more-opaque stent during installation, and (ii) better visualization of the less-opaque stent *and surrounding tissue* at a later point in time. See paragraphs [0039] - [0040] of the specification (as filed). The radiologic opacity features of the present invention are clearly set forth in the independent claims.

In contrast, Ding discloses a stent coated with heparin. At no point does Ding teach or suggest the use of radiologic opacifier material in the coating.

In view of the above, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3507. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

/Richard P. Bauer/
Attorney for Applicants
Richard P. Bauer
Registration No. 31,588

PATENT ADMINISTRATOR
Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP
2900 K Street NW / Suite 200
Washington, DC 20007-5118
Facsimile: (202) 298-7570

Opacifier

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From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

An **opacifier** is a substance added to a material in order to make the ensuing system opaque. An example of a chemical opacifier is tin dioxide (SnO_2), which is used to opacify ceramic glazes.^[1]

Opacifiers must have a refractive index (RI) substantially different from the system. Conversely, clarity may be achieved in a system by choosing components with very similar refractive indices.^[2]

Opacifiers must also form small particles in the system. Opacifiers are generally inert.

Sometimes opacifiers are added to medical implants to make them visible under X-ray imaging. This is especially true in the case of most polymers which are often unrecognizable in the body when viewed using X-rays.

In solid (composite) rocket motors, the primary method of heat transfer into the propellant grain from the combustion process is by radiation, and opacifiers such as "lamp black" may be added to the propellant mixture to ensure the heat does not penetrate far below the surface of the grain, which could cause detonation.

References

1. ^ Tin Oxide (SnO_2) Stannic Oxide – Properties and Applications (<http://www.azom.com/details.asp?ArticleID=2358>), *The A to Z of Materials*.
2. ^ Raghavan, V. (2004). *Materials Science and Engineering: A First Course*. India: Prentice Hall. ISBN 8120324552.

Retrieved from "<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opacifier>"

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